FRANKLIN CEMETERIES

By Miss Jennie P. Baker

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Foreword

IN THE belief that it would be useful and of permanent value to the public to have some outstanding facts and memories regarding our Town Cemeteries gathered together and suitably recorded, we invited an esteemed native townswoman, Miss Jennie P. Baker, to undertake the work. We are indebted to her for her cheerful and painstaking co-operation and for her infinite labor in preparing the material contained in the pages which follow.

The Franklin Cemetery Association.

THE
FRANKLIN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Organized 1898

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YEAR 1928 — 1929

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A Mosaic of Hallowed Associations

IT WAS with timidity that I considered the writing of Franklin Cemeteries. Then my clock of memory struck. Some channels of information were suggested and the attempt was begun. I want to thank all those who have been helpful in gathering items of historical interest pertaining to our cemeteries.

To one reared in our town it is with deepest interest and pleasure that one reads "The Franklin History" so delightfully written by one of her gifted sons, Rev. Mortimer Blake.

There is another history of Franklin written on stone in her cemeteries, the one at City Mills, the St. Mary's cemetery, the old Town cemetery, The Franklin Cemetery Association cemetery and the cemetery of The Ray Cemetery Association, the last three appearing to be as one.

Franklin may well have said of her, as was said of Boston by Emerson, "The climate is electric, good for wit, good for character," for written on her grave stones, one gets the impression that for her size she has sent a large number of useful men into the world, to say nothing of those who have wrought for high standards of service in our town. Worthy men these, spending their lives in our midst, "weaving as it were lustrous threads of strength and beauty into the tapestry" we call the town of Franklin.

FIRST HALF CENTURY

There is always a glamour about old legends of the forgotten past. Let us, in imagination, stroll in the twilight to the scenes of some of those legends, in the year 1754. Ah, here is the spot! A small cemetery! A grove of pine trees! How sweet the odors of brakes and wild flowers! Birds flit happily among the branches. Here are children playing in the open spaces. Surely not a lonely place for the first beloved pastor of the First Church to rest. This thickest stone of slate, probably imported from Wales, bears the date 1754. The inscription reads: "Rev. Elias Haven. He lovingly tended his flock for sixteen years." Nearby is one of the oldest dated stones in the cemetery, 1742, which marks the grave of Job Partridge, who was one of three men, Ebenezer, Job and Samuel, whose families were living here in the South Precinct of Wrentham in 1738. This stone is near the large Knapp monument.

SECOND HALF CENTURY

Now, more than half a century has passed since the above group in fancy visited the cemetery. This time it is a 20th century group of people who walk in at the Union Street gate. One of them is saying, "In 1808 this ground on our left, for 98 rods, was bought of Simeon Partridge. He was born in 1758, and belonged to a different line from Job Partridge. Simeon's line probably came from Medway. Simeon married Achsa, daughter of Michael Metcalf." Ah, here is the stone we are looking for! A very distinguished Revolutionary soldier. His name was Major Moses Knapp. Surely his great, great grandson, for many years one of

the esteemed residents here, Mr. James Knapp, will be pleased to write of his famous ancestor.

Major Moses Knapp

A spot interesting to all Franklin people because it has been the family abiding place of five generations of related people, is the estate known as "Elm Farm" at Unionville. The homestead was built, at about the year 1800, by Moses Knapp, a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Knapp served continuously as Field Officer of the Continental Army for more than eight years. He appears first with rank of Sergeant on Lexington Alarm Roll of Capt. Abial Clap's Co., Col. John Daggett's regt. He enlisted as a Captain in Col. Joseph Read's regt. April 27, 1775. Sept. 6, 1779, Congress confirmed his commission as Major, which was dated Nov. 5, 1778. Records of the War Department at Washington show that he served to the end of the war and was entitled to half pay for the rest of his life.

He was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati, which came into existence shortly before the close of the war in 1783. The original documents show the signatures of thirty-six officers; Washington's name being at the head of the list. Sixteen of these, including the Major, afterwards formed the Mass. Chapter of the Cincinnati. Membership in this society is hereditary, upon the death of a member, his oldest son becoming eligible.

The present representative is James H. Knapp, formerly of Franklin, but at present residing in Attleboro. Former members in the line besides the Major were his son, Hiram Knapp, and his grandson, Gilbert Clark Knapp. Each one of these men spent his most active years at or near "Elm Farm," which was finally developed and made widely famous by Mr. Edgar Knapp Ray, a great grandson of the Major's, and which in recent years has been owned and managed by Mr. Ray's son, Joseph G. Ray, a great, great grandson of the original owner.

Moses Knapp, undoubtedly an ancester of the Major's, was at Mt. Hope in King Philip's War, in Capt. Moseley's Co. of independent volunteers, June and July 1675. Mr. James F. Ray, who is also a great grandson of Moses Knapp, is in possession of the Major's sword and several interesting mementos of the Revolution.

Major Moses Knapp and his wife, Margaret (Tiffany) Knapp, lie side by side in the old burying ground at Franklin, Mass., near the Union Street entrance. These are the inscriptions on their headstones:—

Sacred to the memory of
Maj. Moses Knapp Esq.
who died Nov. 7, 1809,
in the 66th year of his age.

He was highly esteemed for his Humanity and Benevolence, also a valiant officer in the American Revolutionary War. Lived beloved in his life, much lamented at his death.

Oft when keen anguish swelled the heart with grief,
And weeping mortals viewed their friends distressed,
'Twas his by Heaven's decree to give relief,
And gently soothe the anxious mind to rest.

In memory of
Margaret Knapp,
wife of Major Moses Knapp,
who died Aug. 6th, 1840,
in the 83rd year of her age.

A consort kind and good, a parent dear,
To all obliging, and to all sincere.
True to her God, the orphans friend and guide,
She lived beloved, and lamented died.

The people stroll to the old part of the cemetery and when near Central Street, the author, who was one of the group, exclaimed, **"Oh! I've found an older stone than any of which we have record! The oldest stone in the cemetery!"** After about an half hour of study, we made out the following:—"Nathaniel Fairbank, died June 16, 1735." He, like Job Partridge, was one of the forty-eight petitioners for the South or West Precinct of Wrentham.

We find ourselves again on the Union Street driveway.

Alexander Metcalf Fisher

"Have you seen this stone?" says one. "It is in memory of a Fisher. My mother told me that there were more Fishers than Ponds in Franklin. The inscription is: 'Prof. Alexander Metcalf Fisher, son of Caleb and Sally Cushing Fisher. Born in Franklin July 22, 1794.'" "Oh yes, I knew his sister," we hear someone say, "and she had the first piano in Franklin. Her brother was a rare character." The Blake history reads, "He was slender, but with a very active mind. He graduated from Yale at the age of nineteen. He spent a year with Dr. Emmons, going through the usual course of theological topics. Dr. Emmons said of him, 'He is the ablest man in theological argument I ever met.' He studied in Andover and was appointed tutor in Yale in 1815. His favorite studies invigorated his health. On the death of Pres. Dwight and the promotion of Prof. Day as president, Fisher was elected to his chair of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. He met with striking success as a teacher and wrote some philosophical papers, which became of note, especially an article on 'Musical Temperament,' which was regarded as most profound both in Europe and America.

"He was a wonderfully rapid, exact and methodical writer, and marked by originality of thought, delicacy of taste, and determination of purpose." He sailed with sixty others with the intent of studying methods of instruction. A storm struck the ship when it was near the other side and wrecked it. Thus the high hopes of his career were suddenly destroyed."

He was engaged to Miss Catherine Beecher, the sister of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. Miss Catherine wrote a poem, which is in part inscribed on his tombstone.

Dr. Nathaniel Emmons

I have found Dr. Nathaniel Emmons' monument. My father was named for his son, Major Erastus Emmons. His name and that of his family was often spoken of in our home. My grandfather, Capt. David Baker, boarded some of the students who came to study with Dr. Emmons. Dr. Emmons was born in 1745 O. S. in East Haddon County, Hartford, Conn. In his autobiography he wrote, "I was ordained to the pastoral care of the second church in Wrentham in April, 1773. Franklin was the 2d Precinct of Wrentham from Dec. 1737, to Feb., 1778, when it was incorporated into a town by the name of Franklin."

He retired from ministerial cares in 1827 after 54 years of active labor. He died in Sept. 23, 1840, aged 95 years and 5 months.

"When he was settled as third pastor, the service, like that of his predecessors, was held outside the church in a valley west of the present Church of St. Mary's. Pres. Park of Andover has written an exhaustive memoir of him. So strong was the regard for him personally that his namesakes are in many a family, in many a town and state, while anecdotes and pithy sayings are still current — bright as a new coin, and more valuable. He was never a dictator, but carried the public mind by his clear logic. He sharpened the intellects of his people, and made them alert."

The buttonwood tree on Mr. James Ray's south lawn was near the house of Dr. Emmons.

Hon. Theron Metcalf, in an address before the Phi Beta Kappa society of Brown University on Dr. Emmons in 1832, said: "The esteem in which Dr. Emmons was held was not the partiality of private friendship, nor the interested feeling of party attachment. Neither was it merely the homage which is sometimes paid to splendid talents or mighty deeds. It was rather a deep conviction of personal worth, a feeling that rises spontaneously, in view of strict unbending integrity, maintained amidst all the vicissitudes and temptations of a long and laborious life."

Rev. William M. Thayer was attending Brown University when Pres. Wayland made known to him that Dr. Emmons deserved a more public monument than the village folk could afford. Later the Emmons Monument Association was established in 1844 and in 1846 the monument was dedicated and placed upon the Common, across which

the venerated pastor had traveled for over half a century. Dr. Blake gave the address inside the church and then they adjourned to the front of the monument where the pastor, Rev. Tertius Southworth, made the dedicatory address. The monument has since been moved to the Union Street Cemetery.

THIRD HALF CENTURY

And now a third fifty years in the history of this cemetery has gone, and another 20th century company of friends are visiting. They are in front of the Mann lot. One of them is saying, "Probably more visitors come to this lot than to any other, for of all Franklinites, Horace Mann was our greatest brother."

Horace Mann

Listen, this is the record of his life:

"He was born May 4, 1796. His father died when Horace was only thirteen years old, but he had been well taught before that time. His father had taught him to hate evil, to hate intemperance, and to hate ignorance." They lived on East Central Street. Horace was poor but he worked hard, so that he graduated from Brown University in three years. He lived in Franklin until he was twenty years old. He finished his law studies in Dedham, where he then lived, in the office of Hon. James Richards. He resigned a lucrative practice in Boston, to work on the State Board of Education, which by his position as a senator, he was influential in establishing. Then through his efforts Normal Schools were started, which in time were scattered all over the United States. He served in Congress in Washington and in 1859 he died in Ohio while president of Antioch College. He had 'Fathered the American Public School System.' In front of the State House in Boston, where he had made his stirring address for our school children, is a beautiful, bronze statue of this wonderful 'Educator and Friend of Children.' He was fond of speaking of his 80,000 school children, and in spirit, 'He took them all in his arms, and blessed them.'"

Dr. Oliver Dean

Let us go over to Dr. Dean's monument, for he was another townsman interested in education. One of our group loves to tell the story of his life. She says: "Oliver Dean, M.D., was born in Franklin, Feb. 18, 1783, and was the son of Seth and Edna Pond Dean. He received his degree of M.D. from the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1809. He practiced in Boston until 1812, and later, his health failing, he left his profession to take the superintendency of The Medway Cotton Mills. In 1826 he was chosen superintendent of the then young Amoskeag, N. H., Manufacturing Co. He accumulated a fortune and retired to a farm in Framingham from 1834 to 1844. In the years to 1851 he resided in Boston. Then he purchased part of the farm left at the death of Dr. Emmons. The rest of his life he devoted to the education of youth. He was especially interested in the girls and Dean Academy, which he was largely influential in founding and which he endowed, can never be closed to the girls. He was of great influence in the establishing of the Universalist Church, which he also endowed."

Dr. Dean's memory will always abide in the hearts of the people of Franklin for his enduring benefactions to her educational interests.

The Union St. Cemetery like the City Mills Cemetery has the distinction of having the grave of one, who passed the century mark in age.

Mrs. Sally Daniels Ware, a grandparent of Mr. Palmer A. Woodward, died on Nov. 30, 1889, aged 100 years and 6 months. She was born June 1, 1789. This grave is close to the driveway near the Horace Mann lot.

Ray Cemetery

"Let us visit the beautiful Ray Cemetery next," one of the older ones in the company of visitors is saying. "I remember that Mr. Joseph Ray senior came to Franklin with his family in 1839 and settled in the village of Unionville. He had three sons, James P., Frank B. and Joseph G., all extensive and well known manufacturers in cotton and woolen lines."

The first shoddy-picker, and probably the first in the country, was started in Unionville by Messrs. J. G. and J. P. Ray. Mr. James P. Ray and Mr. Joseph G. Ray served the town in the Senate. Mr. Frank B. Ray served in the House.

Through the influence of Mr. James P. Ray the Franklin National Bank was established, he being the first president. Later Mr. Joseph G. Ray and Mr. Edgar K. Ray (son of Mr. James P.) became presidents.

Mr. E. K. Ray was a prominent manufacturer and also the builder of the one-time electric railroad between Woonsocket and Franklin. Further reference to him appears in Mr. James Knapp's contribution relative to Elm Farm.

Mr. Joseph G. Ray was always a prime mover in town interests and generous in movements of public benefit.

Mr. Frank B. Ray married Susan Rockwood, occupying the fine old Makepeace residence in Unionville. "They had one son, Mr. William F. Ray, who graduated from Brown University, the youngest in his class of forty-five, in the year 1874. He engaged in the woolen business, served the town on important committees, and was Moderator in our town meetings for many years. He was married to Harriet, daughter of Mr. Charles A. Richardson of Chelsea, and had five children. He served the town as Representative and Senator for a term of two years each."

The Franklin Cemetery Association

When we get to the Thayer lot, I want to tell the story. Here it is in the corner of the cemetery.

Nathaniel Thayer, with his family, came to Unionville in 1800 and did much to build up the manufacturing village called "the street" in connection with the Makepeaces and Rockwoods. He had five sons. Major Davis married a sister of William Makepeace and Davis Jr., his son, established one of the oldest straw factories in New England. Major Davis Thayer was the first Post Master in Franklin Centre. The office was held in his store, he being the second owner of the store. Capt. Nathaniel Adams owned the store in 1812.

A brother of Davis Thayer Jr. was Rev. William Makepeace Thayer, born in 1820. He graduated from Brown University in 1843. "On account of throat trouble he abandoned his parish in Ashland and though this was a great disappointment, he reached a larger congregation with his pen." He wrote twenty-five books, one or two of them selling successfully in London. "From Log Cabin to The White House" and "Tact, Push, and Principle," were titles of two of his books. His book of "Ethics" is used in our High School. Rev. Mr. Thayer was prominent in the temperance and slavery causes and was secretary of "The Massachusetts Temperance Alliance" for fifteen years. He was sent to the Legislature from Ashland and also from Franklin. He died in 1898.

Here is the Erastus Metcalf Monument! We remember that he and his brother, Otis, conducted a large grain and lumber business for many years. They trace their ancestry to Rev. Leonard Metcalf, Rector of Tetterford, England, 1545. Michael, his son, fled from persecutions of Bishop Wren and settled in Dedham in 1637. A Michael, of this line, was an original member and ruling elder in First Church. In front of this monument was placed in 1891 by E. L. Metcalfe, the step stone of the fine old Jonathan Metcalf house in North Franklin. This house was built in 1714. This monument and step stone perpetuate the memory of a sturdy family of useful citizens.

We come to a stone which says: Mary L. Daniels, 1862—1923. She was niece of our first foreign missionary, Miss Mary Warfield. Miss Daniels gave herself to mission work in 1888 and chose the field of her aunt's labors, Harpoot, Turkey. By her efficiency she was made principal of the Girls' College there. She was home on a furlough when the World War started and being unable to return to Harpoot, was given a responsible position with the Woman's Board of Missions at the Congregational House. She served the American Board at Harpoot 28 years.

Dr. Austin Barclay Fletcher

"One lot we must be sure to visit is that of Dr. Austin Barclay Fletcher," we hear one of the party saying. "Let me open this book in my bag again. It is Dr. Blake's History of Franklin. This is the page.

"'Dr. Fletcher was born in Mendon, March 13, 1852, but removed to Franklin in 1860.' Here is his beautiful monument. He was graduated," (our reader proceeds) "at Dean Academy, and from Tufts in 1876. He studied two years in Boston University in the Schools of Law and Oratory. He became instructor of oratory both in the theological departments of Boston University and also of Brown University. He later became a lawyer in New York, acquiring wealth. At his death, he made many public benefactions. The Franklin Cemetery Association received $20,000. He was president of this Association from March 23, 1892, until his death. Through his untiring efforts the cemetery was put on a solid basis. The new wall on Union and part of Central Streets was placed at this time. The Franklin Cemetery Association was incorporated in 1898, so that the cemetery may legally handle funds.

"The Association has the charge of eight acres, and is most fortunate in its present management. The appearance of the cemetery has vastly improved under the present supervision. The cemetery has 74 Civil War Veterans."

Sextons

The earliest sexton we can remember was Jason Fisher. He announced each death by ringing the church bell, one group of three for a child, two groups of three for a woman, and three groups of three for a man. The age was then tolled. He was succeeded by Mr. Henry Bemis who lived where Mr. Hamilton Chapman now lives on Main St. Mr. Bardol's home opposite the front yard of the Brick School was Mr. Bemis' shop for carriage making, down stairs, and carriage painting shop up stairs. Mr. Bemis was truly a versatile man. He too, tolled the bell when death came to our town. Did any one need an undertaker, Mr. Bemis did the work. Was a grave needed for a burial. Mr. Bemis dug it. Was a lot wanted in the cemetery, Mr. Bemis negotiated for it. Was help in music in the church desired. No one could play better than Mr. Bemis on his clarionet and he served the town in that capacity most acceptably for years. If young people wished to have a dance, Mr. Bemis, Mr. Morse and Mr. Ware of Wrentham were there to help on the good times. Did any one need a new wagon or one painted, for a time no one could do it but Mr. Bemis. He didn't shoe horses but he owned the shop on the site where now Mr. Crowell is building his residence. He was succeeded as sexton by Mr. John L. Ledbury who dug Mr. Bemis' grave in 1900. At this time an undertaker was hired separately. I wonder if any department in the town has had more faithful service than Mr. Ledbury's. Would that I had the gift of Gray in writing his elegy on the graveyard of Stoke Pogeis. I would certainly have one verse written on the devoted service of our friend Mr. Ledbury, sexton of the Cemetery Association. I doubt if the keeper of any old English Manse (Mr. Ledbury is an Englishman) ever put more tender care than has he, in the administration of his loved charge.

Retrospection

Let us sit beneath this beautiful Maple tree. I brought my mother's Scrap Book. I think it is largely copied from The Franklin History. I'll read. "The two cemeteries provided for the early settlers, had lain open and uncared for until 1768, when the Precinct appointed a committee for each burial spot, to clear up, and enclose them with good stone walls. In 1793, committees are appointed again to clear them, repair fences, appoint sextons, and fix the fee for interment. In 1808, when enlarged on Union St., a two-rail fence and sawed posts were ordered. These same cemeteries with later enlargements are now in use. A hearse was purchased by the town in May, 1803, and rules were adopted regulating its use. A hearse was purchased in April 1837, which was later supplanted by another in 1853. The taste and requirement of the town led in 1860, to the formation of the Frank-

lin Cemetery Association, which purchased and laid out, several acres on the West side. The town added six acres to its old cemetery and the two cemeteries are now practically one. The Ray Cemetery Association (organized March 19, 1909) has a third one. About a century and one quarter after the date of our first settlers in 1738, a group of leading citizens who formed the association above referred to in 1860 decided that the new land laid out at that time should receive care which the town had failed to give to its own "graveyard" Some of those men were Davis Thayer, Jr., Joseph G. Ray, Emery Thayer, Charles W. Stewart, A. H. Morse and Erastus L. Metcalf. The hill was improved at this time and the driveway was paved on the sides and so also was part of the hillside. Many maple trees were planted. About thirty years ago the town appropriated money to grade and to reset headstones, which brought this "God's Acre" to a respectable appearance. So great was the town's neglect that many of the old tombstones had fallen to the ground, many were broken beyond repair, graves had fallen in, the grass and weeds seemed beyond control. In more recent years the town has been more considerate of its obligations, to the places of the dead. We believe it will not fail to do so hereafter.

City Mills Burying Ground

The old record says that two cemeteries were provided at the beginning of the settlement by grants of land from proprietors. One for the convenience of settlers around Stop river, who probably came from Medfield, now City Mills Cemetery, and the other for those who migrated from Wrentham, The Union Street Cemetery now. In 1867, Col. Saul B. Scott gave land for the enlargement of the cemetery.

City Mills Burying Ground is a most interesting cemetery in two particulars. First: It has a list of twenty-six Revolutionary veterans. Such a list is lost in the Union Street Cemetery. Second: It has the grave of the oldest person buried in Franklin.

The choice record of Revolutionary veterans and items of the facts concerning Col. Scott were furnished by Miss Bernice Comey, the adopted daughter of the late Civil War Veteran, Mr. William M. Comey, of City Mills.

Revolutionary Soldiers

List of Revolutionary soldiers buried in the old "Franklin City" Burying Ground:

Capt. Eli Richardson
Died Apr. 24, 1823.

Capt. Thomas Bacon
Died June 6, 1784.

Capt. Dyar Clark
Died Sept. 8, 1827.

Capt. John Boyd
Died July, 1828.

Capt. Stephen Kingsbury
Died Sept. 16, 1809.

Lieut. Seth Bacon
Died Nov. 24, 1822.

Lieut. Hezekiah Fisher
Died June 27, 1809.

Seargt. John Richardson
Died May 4, 1809.

Ensign Daniel Fisher
Died Nov. 17, 1835.

Corporal Joseph Bacon
Died May 6, 1843.

Private Nathan Daniels
Died Nov. 23, 1841.

Private Jonas Brick
Died Nov. 10, 1822.

Private Nathan Daniels Jr.
Died Nov. 20, 1841.

Private Simeon Fisher
Died Oct. 6, 1800.

Private Richard Lethbridge
Died May 8, 1838.

Private William Mann
Died Feb. 12, 1782.

Private Samuel Morse
Died June 30, 1798.

Private Elisha Richardson
Died Mar. 15, 1798.

There are nine more not here recorded, making a total of twenty-six veterans of the Revolutionary War interred here.

The oldest grave in City Mills Cemetery is later by thirteen years than the oldest in Union Street Cemetery. It reads: "Joseph Adams, son of Seth

and Mary Adams, died in 1848." One stone has quaint spelling: "Heare Lyes the body of Hannah Man. Died on Mar. 23, 1749."

The grave of the oldest person buried in Franklin is that of the late Harriet S. Kingsbury. She was born in 1818 and died in 1919, arriving at the great age of 101 years.

Her husband, John H., was born in 1819, and died in 1898. John Kingsbury and his brother, Horatio Kingsbury, we can never forget for their kindly interest in children, who knew no greater pleasure than having picnics, both public and private, on the Picnic Grounds of Kingsbury's Pond. The brothers successfully conducted this for years.

Col. Saul B. Scott

An imposing monument is that of Col. Saul B. Scott, which suggests one of the makers of the village activity of former years. Col. Scott was born in Bellingham July 5, 1804, and died in City Mills. Col. Scott was married to Susan P. Daniels on May 11, 1826. They had four girls, namely: Susan M., born Jan. 8, 1828; Sarah S., born May 30, 1830; Elizabeth R., born Jan. 8, 1835; Ophelia H., born June 30, 1842, late wife of William M. Comey. Saul B. Scott was a colonel in the old State Militia and a part of his uniform has been preserved. He served in the Militia in the years between 1830 and 1840. The post office at one time was located in the old Scott and Comey homestead. The record shows that City Mills was Franklin City from 1778 through the year 1870. Col. Scott was an official post master at one time. He was a manufacturer of bonnet wire, succeeding Jenks and Ray. This was said to be the first factory in Franklin.

William M. Comey

Mr. William M. Comey of City Mills was born in Wrentham Feb. 18, 1840, son of Albert and Celinda Barton. He married Ophelia Scott. He was a Civil War Veteran. He served four years, being in eight battles and fifteen engagements. He was well known as a hat wire manufacturer. He died in 1927.

Albert D. Richardson

We stopped at the Albert D. Richardson monument and noticed near it what seemed the quaintest stone in the cemetery. It had a double curved top and involuntarily the person with me lay himself flat upon the ground to get the name and age. After a half hour of study, he found the name to be John Richardson, with son on the next line. The date seemed to be 1707, but pressing a sheet of paper against the stone, it proved to be 1767. He was worth all the trouble, for it proved to be the grave of **John 4,** the ancestor of the Franklin branch of the Richardson family, who settled in North Franklin, his father giving him 53 acres of wild land, later forming part of the farm of S. W. Richardson, Esq. It is now known as the Adams and Cornwall farms. Of his sons, John 5 married Abigail Haven, cousin of the minister. Elisha, living in the homestead, made furniture for young couples for many miles around. Of Elisha's children, his daughter Jemima married Capt. David Baker, and his son Elisha Jr. will be noted later. Elisha, the father, became a Revolutionary veteran and died in 1798. A third son of John 4 was Eli, who sold his half of the farm to Elisha and bought City Mills, where he resided. He built the stone store and by his sagacity secured the **first Post Office in Franklin.** City Mills was Franklin City then, and part of Franklin. Now it belongs to Norfolk. "As there was some business rivalry between the Center and Franklin City, of which Davis Thayer and Eli Richardson were the leaders respectively, the Center was not pleased that a march had been stolen upon them. Mr. Richardson engaged to bring letters and papers to the Center in his sulky box every Sunday, and H. C. Fisher took the package from the carriage to Major Davis Thayer for distribution. After two restless years the Center had a Post Office with Major Davis Thayer as Post Master." David P. Baker served two different times as Post Master, the last time with Mr. Russegue as assistant. Elisha Jr., the grandson of John 4, married for his second wife, Harriet, daughter of

* Timothy and Julia Dean Blake. There were two sons by this marriage, Charles A., father of Mrs. William F. Ray of Franklin, and **Albert D.,** whose brown stone monument one easily distinguishes. These brothers were born on the ancestral farm in North Franklin. Albert was born in 1833. He was connected with the "New York Tribune" and became southern reporter during the Rebellion. After a short visit at home, he returned West, but in attempting to pass Vicksburg, the tug on which he was, sunk by rebel shot, and he was taken prisoner. He was confined eighteen months in Libby Prison. He and his friend made their escape in Dec., 1864. After a four hundred mile, winter journey, mostly at night, they came to Knoxville, Tenn. From here he sent his brother the famous dispatch: "Out of the jaws of death, out of the mouth of hell." Soon after, he prepared his first work, entitled, "The Field, Dungeon and Escape." It is said that before Bunyan died at the age of sixty, 100,000 volumes of Pilgrim's Progress had been sold. Mr. Richardson's book ran up the same enormous record. His health being impaired by his long imprisonment, he went West and contributed still for the "New York Tribune." His second book, "Beyond The Mississippi," was issued in 1867 and reached a circulation of 75,000. He returned to New York in the summer of 1869, and died the following winter, aged 36 years. Thus a brilliant literary career was cut off at an early age.

Dr. Nathaniel Miller

The imposing Miller monument brings to mind a picture of a pleasant building, known as the Miller Hospital, with an attractive driveway to the house, and beautiful grounds, adjoining the spacious residence of Dr. Nathaniel Miller at River End. "Dr. Miller became a son-in-law of Franklin. He married a Franklin young lady, Hannah Boyd, in 1797. They had three sons. Two of them became eminent surgeons.

Dr. Nathaniel Miller was a prominent citizen and one of the famous surgeons of Eastern Massachusetts. He studied with Dr. Louis Laprelette, a noteworthy French physician of Norton. He received his degree of M.D. from Harvard University. He was vice-president of the Massachusetts Medical Society for years. He built a thread mill near his house and his wife's brother, Col. Willard Boyd managed it. Dr. Miller was always active and generous in all matters of public benefit." Of his wife, Dr. Emmons wrote: "She is one of the three best women in town."

Miss Mary Warfield
First Foreign Missionary of Our Town

One of the stones tells of the death of Miss Mary Warfield, who was the first foreign missionary of Franklin.

The Mary Warfield Missionary Society of The First Church was named for this sweet-spirited woman.

She was born in Franklin on Jan. 31, 1842. She taught public school for a time in the vestry of the old church at the foot of the Common and in each position she filled, here and elsewhere, she was greatly beloved. She later felt called to give herself to mission work in a foreign field and in 1867 sailed for Harpoot, Turkey. Her ship, bound for Liverpool, met with an accident to part of the ship. It drifted for a time but in six weeks came to Ireland. Turkey was not reached until four months later, and then she journeyed four weeks more, in the saddle. She taught in the Girls' School of Euphrates College for only three short years, but "that life is long that answers life's great end," and the example she left of high purpose and devotion to Christian teachings will live on among us, her home friends.

The St. Mary's Cemetery

The St. Mary's Cemetery was established in 1864, making this a newer cemetery by one hundred and thirty years than the other two.

In 1864 J. L. Fitzpatrick and eleven others organized and secured of Mr. Robinson an acre of land (purchased of Mr. Ford previously) for a burial

* Timothy Blake's grave is in the extreme corner of Union Street Cemetery at the intersection of Union and Central Streets.

ground, on Beaver Street, which the town approved by vote Nov. 8.

In time about ten adjoining acres of the Ballou estate were bought by Jeremiah and Michael McCarthy, successful business contractors. They removed some sand for their business and then the land was deeded as an addition to the one acre for a Catholic cemetery. This was conveyed through Father John Mulcahy. There are now twenty-four Civil War Veterans in this cemetery.

The oldest grave is that of Mary Tobin, July 29, 1865, aged 19 years.

The second oldest grave is that of Margaret Doherty, Oct. 11, 1865.

Among the old lot owners are: John Farrell, Hugh McFarland, Andrew Murphy, John Murphy, Michael Shea, Patrick McGuire, Mr. Thomas Foley.

Mr. John L. Fitzpatrick served the town as maker of grave stones for years, doing business on the corner where the ruin of the former Parochial School now stands. Later he did his business at his home, which is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Kandle on Lincoln Street.

Rev. James Griffin, first rector of St. Mary's, was born May 12, 1828, died June 26, 1885. His grave is marked by a fine monument.

Dennis F. O'Sullivan was a veteran blacksmith and always a man highly esteemed in our town.

Wherever there is a member of The Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, he certainly has heard of Capt. O'Sullivan, for he was the original Forester. Forty-nine years ago he suggested the idea and he was given authority to draft the constitution and by-laws. He had the honor also of establishing the first secret society to be approved by the Church. He was the first High Chief Ranger. He was also Past Chief Ranger of Cathedral Court No. 1, of Boston, and Griffin Court No. 66, of Franklin. He was one of four original Foresters. He was Captain of the Militia of Co. E, 9th Regiment.

Raphael Fiorani was born in Tuscany in 1839 and was educated in Rome. He taught school in Turin. He came to Boston in 1873 and settled in Franklin in 1880. He was a construction contractor and built a great many railroads, including the second track from Boston to Putnam, for the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., through the Middleboros, Attleboro and Pawtucket. Other contracts were the filling in of land where the Terminal of the South Station now stands and the East Boston docks. He was the first to use the huge arc lights in Boston for night work. He was also a charter member of the Griffin Court, M. C. O. F., and first President of the Italian Citizens' Club and St. Anthony Society. He was a large-hearted man and quietly and generously he gave financial aid where he saw a family had need. He died Sept. 19, 1919.

"These substantial grave stones in our cemeteries will remain for the perpetuity of those hallowed associations" of those who once walked our Franklin streets.

In these pages I would rear in spirit a memorial pillar of these sacred memories, in this year 1928, of all those down through the years since 1735 (the date of our earliest stone) who have helped to build this cherished town of Franklin, which we enjoy today.

Pondering these and **for** these, we consecrate our hopes for the

Future of Franklin.

I am indebted to Dr. Blake's "History of Franklin" for much valuable material and have gathered such other historical facts as seemed desirable to preserve.